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The Salvadoran Insurgency

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THE SALVADORAN INSURGENCY

Organized Salvadoran insurgent groups first emerged during the early 1970s in radical working-class and student organizations. By 1980—after a decade of repressive military rule—the insurgency had evolved into an alliance among five guerrilla groups, each with military and political wings, known as the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The five FMLN guerrilla factions first agreed to unite during a meeting in Havana in December 1979; the document that formed the alliance was signed in Managua in 1980. The declared objective of the FMLN is to wage a protracted guerrilla war against the Government of El Salvador. Since 1984, however, the FMLN has participated in talks with the government aimed at ending the civil war. These talks have failed because the FMLN has been adamant about its demands for immediate power-sharing and the incorporation of the rebels into the government military organization.

Since 1981 the FMLN has been allied with the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), a grouping of three principal non-Marxist political parties, which is widely perceived as the political and diplomatic arm of the FMLN. Established in 1980, the FDR has its roots in the Social Democratic and Christian Democratic movements of the early 1970s. Together with the FMLN, the FDR seeks to establish a broad-based provisional government.

Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)
 Marxist-Leninist front established in November 1980 to coordinate the activities of the five insurgent groups against the Government of El Salvador. The five group leaders (commandantes) are:
 Joaquín Villalobos
 Fermán Cermeño
 Leonel González
 Jorge Shalk Handal
 Roberto Rúa

Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR)
 Formed in 1980, the FDR is the political and diplomatic ally of the FMLN. It is a loose umbrella organization consisting of three main political parties. Its leaders are:
 Guillermo Ungo (president)
 Eduardo Calleja (vice president)
 Rubén Zamora (vice president)
 Hector Osqueal (member)

People's Revolutionary Army (ERP)
 Formed in 1972, the ERP has about 2,000 combatants and is the strongest and most aggressive of the guerrilla groups. Its leaders are:
 Joaquín Villalobos
 Jorge Meléndez
 Claudio Amador
 Juan Meléndez
 Ana Martínez

United Forces of the National Resistance (FUR)
 Formed in 1975, the FURN has about 1,000 combatants and is the most politically sophisticated member of the insurgent alliance because of its emphasis on organization and political alliance. Its leaders are:
 Fermán Cermeño
 Eduardo Salazar
 Raúl Hernández
 Chano Guzmán

Popular United Forces of Liberation (FUP)
 Formed in 1976, the FUP is the oldest of the guerrilla groups and has 1,000-2,000 combatants. It was a Vietnam and Cuba as revolutionary models. Its leaders are:
 Leonel González
 Dimas Rodríguez
 Salvador Serrano
 Facundo Guzmán
 Susana Guzmán

Popular Liberation Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARL)
 Military wing of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, the FARL has about 300 combatants. It began using its current title in 1983. Its leaders are:
 Roberto Rúa
 Nilo Díaz
 Efraim Castillo
 Juan José Obregón

United Forces of Liberation (FUL)
 Military wing of the Communist Party, the FUL has fewer than 200 members. Its leaders are:
 Jorge Shalk Handal
 José Arce Gómez
 Mario Carranza
 Dagoberto Gutiérrez

National Revolutionary Movement (MNR)
 A small socialist party founded in 1984, the MNR has fewer than 200 members. Its leaders are:
 Guillermo Ungo
 Hector Osqueal
 David Mera

Popular Social Christian Movement (MSPC)
 Organization whose members broke with the Christian Democratic Party in March 1980. Its leaders are:
 Rubén Zamora
 Jorge Villaverde
 Juan José Martí
 Luis Martínez
 Héctor Rúa

Independent Movement of Salvadoran Professionals (MIPES)
 Formed in early 1980 in a moderate socialist movement, MIPES has members who are doctors, lawyers, engineers, and artists. The leaders include:
 Eduardo Calleja
 Carlos Molina
 Jorge García
 Francisco Casas

- Marxist-Leninist, Military
- Marxist-Leninist, Political
- Non-Marxist-Leninist, Socialist

Salvadoran Revolutionary Party (PRS)
 Political wing of the ERP established in 1977.

National Resistance (RN)
 Political wing of the FUR.

Popular Forces of Liberation (FPL)
 Political wing of the FUP.

Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRCA)
 The PRCA began as a regional movement in Costa Rica in 1976, its most active branch is in El Salvador.

Communist Party of El Salvador (CPES)
 Party mainly serves as a moderator and instrument for guerrilla support for the insurgency from abroad.



Joaquín Villalobos
 Real name: Benigno ... leader of ERP since 1974 and PRS ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 27 June 1951.



Fermán Cermeño
 Real name: Estanislao ... leader FARL and RN ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 14 February 1948.



Leonel González
 Real name: Sebastián ... leader FUP ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 14 February 1948.



Roberto Rúa
 Real name: Francisco ... leader FARL ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 14 February 1948.



Jorge Shalk Handal
 Communist Party ... leader FARL ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 14 October 1950.



Guillermo Manuel Ungo Rúa
 President of FDR since 1980 ... member MSPC ... member FDR ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 2 September 1932.



Rubén Zamora Rúa
 Leader MSPC ... vice president FDR ... member FMLN ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 5 November 1942.



Eduardo Calleja Salazar
 Vice president FDR and FMLN-FDR ... member MSPC ... member FDR ... member of Communist Party ... joined ERP ... joined FMLN ... born on 5 November 1942.